



**David E. Pierce**  
*Director*

# *Commonwealth of Massachusetts*

## **Division of Marine Fisheries**

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### *Marine Fisheries Advisory*

#### **Pilot Program:**

#### **Summertime Weekly Aggregate Scup Trip Limits for Draggers**

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The Massachusetts Division of Marine Fisheries (*Marine Fisheries*) will continue its experimental fishery pilot program allowing trawlers to land a weekly aggregate limit of scup during the summertime quota period (May 1 – October 31). The pilot program is designed to improve access to the available summertime scup quota through providing the flexibility to reduce the regulatory discarding of scup by draggers caused by the occasional large single tow resulting in catches that exceed the existing 800 pound daily trip limit. Those draggers who do not participate in the pilot program may lawfully fish retain and land scup in accordance with the open fishing days and daily trip limits provided at [322 CMR 6.28\(2\)\(b\)\(3\)](#).

The pilot program authorizes vessels to land a weekly limit, rather than a daily limit. This weekly aggregate limit is equivalent to the daily trip limit multiplied by the number of open fishing days for a particular fishery period. From May 1 – June 9 participating draggers may land scup 7-days not to exceed 5,600 pounds per week; then from June 10 – October 31 participating draggers may land scup Sunday through Thursday not to exceed 4,000 pounds per week. This authorization may be amended to account for in-season adjustments to trip limits or fishing days. Note that from April 23<sup>rd</sup>, when the state's small mesh squid fishery opens, through April 30<sup>th</sup>, vessels may fish under the 2016 federal Winter I trip limit of 50,000 pounds.

To participate in this pilot program, a fisherman must hold a Massachusetts commercial fisherman permit endorsed for mobile gear (Coastal Access Permit) and scup permit endorsement. Vessels must also report on a weekly basis via the federal VTR system or a state logbook that will be provided with this authorization. For reporting and compliance purposes, a week is considered Sunday through Saturday.

#### **To Obtain an LOA to Participate in Pilot Program:**

Send a request via fax or e-mail to the attention of Jared Silva (fax: 617 626-1509 or email: [jared.silva@state.ma.us](mailto:jared.silva@state.ma.us)). All requests must provide the following information:

- Permit Holder Name
- Vessel Name
- DMF Permit Identification Number

For more information regarding the management of scup in Massachusetts, please visit our [website](#).